



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Floreen*

---

---

**For Immediate Release**

**May 12, 2004**

---

---

Contact: Merle Steiner 240-777-7961

## **FLOREEN PROPOSES REGIONAL SUMMIT ON METRO REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS**

**N  
E  
W  
S  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E**

Councilmember Nancy Floreen today proposed that the Washington Area Council of Governments (COG) convene a summit on economic development that would include the governors of Maryland and Virginia, the mayor of the District of Columbia and area business leaders.

"Issues relating to economic development seem to be at the heart of nearly every regional question to come before our local and state governments," said Floreen, who represents the Montgomery County Council on the COG board. "Economic development is the 800-pound gorilla in the living room and our local and state governments ought to at least be singing from the same hymn book, even if we're not always on the same page.

"Issues such as transportation improvements, air quality, 'Smart Growth,' public infrastructure, and public/private partnerships can help or hinder our economic development possibilities.

"An honest discussion at all levels of government can help public officials arrive at acceptable balances, compromises, trade-offs, and countervailing actions. Gridlock at a policymaking level is even less acceptable to area residents than gridlock on our roads – especially since area families realize that one leads to another."

At today's COG meeting, Councilmember Floreen proposed that staff work closely with the Executive Board over the course of the summer to develop a more detailed plan for the summit. An update on the planning will be presented at COG's June 9 meeting.

###